



Brownfields 2011 Cleanup Grant Fact Sheet

Cullman, AL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Cullman was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. During the 1960s, the population of Cullman (15,302) declined significantly because of limited employment opportunities that resulted in residents seeking jobs elsewhere. Downtown Cullman currently contains over a dozen underused or vacant brownfields. The city has a lower median household income and a higher poverty rate than the national averages. The target cleanup site is located downtown near both a middle school and a high school. The site poses risks to students and residents in nearby neighborhoods and has contributed to declining property values. Cleanup of the target site will reduce health threats to residents and is expected to facilitate the city's efforts to restore its downtown. The city plans to reuse the site as a location to consolidate city services and improve access to the planned greenway along the city's rail corridor.

Cleanup Grant

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Cullman for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 12-acre Grief Brothers Facilities site at 409 2nd Avenue, NE. From 1917 to 2001, the site was used for industrial purposes, including the manufacturing of steel drums and containers. Site soils and groundwater are contaminated with toluene, trichloroethene, and metals. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
(404) 562-8792

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/was te/bf>)

Grant Recipient: City of Cullman,AL
(256) 775-7102

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.